

1314

ALICE AND THE WHITE RABBIT

AND OTHER STORIES



808.0683

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By
LEWIS CARROLL



MACMILLAN AND COMPANY LIMITED
London Bombay Calcutta Madras Melbourne

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED
Toronto

ST MARTIN'S PRESS INC
New York

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First Edition 1939
Reprinted 1947 (twice), 1954

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PUBLISHED BY MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY RICHARD CLAY AND COMPANY, LTD.
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ALICE
AND THE
WHITE
RABBIT



Once upon a time there was a little girl called Alice, and she had a very curious dream.

Would you like to hear what it was that she dreamed about?

Well, this was the first thing that happened. A White Rabbit came running by in a great hurry, and

just as it passed Alice it stopped and took its watch out of its pocket.

Wasn't that a funny thing? Did you ever see a Rabbit that had a watch and a pocket to put it in? Of course, when a Rabbit has a watch, it must have a pocket to put it in. It would never do to carry it about in its mouth, and it wants its hands sometimes to run about with.

Hasn't it got pretty pink eyes? (I think all white Rabbits have pink eyes.) It has pink ears, too, and a nice brown coat. You can just see its silk pocket-handkerchief peeping out of its coat pocket, and with its blue neck-tie and its yellow waistcoat, it really is very nicely dressed.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" said the

Rabbit. "I shall be too late!"

What would it be too late for, I wonder? Well, you see, it had to go to visit the Duchess. Now, the Duchess was a very cross old lady, and the Rabbit knew she'd be very angry indeed if he kept her waiting. So the poor thing was as frightened as frightened could be. Just shake the book a little from side to side, and you'll soon see him tremble. The Rabbit thought the Duchess would have his head cut off for a punishment for being late. That was what the Queen of Hearts used to do when she was angry with people. At least the Queen used to order their heads to be cut off, and she always thought it was done, though

they never really did it, you know.

And so, when the White Rabbit ran away, Alice wanted to see what would happen to it. So she ran after it, and she ran and she ran till she tumbled right down the rabbit-hole.

And then she had a very long fall indeed. Down and down and down she fell, till she began to wonder if she was going right through the world, so as to come out on the other side!

It was just like a very deep well, only there was no water in it. If anybody really had such a fall as that, it would kill them, most likely. But you know it doesn't hurt a bit to fall in a dream, because, all the time you think you're falling, you really

are lying somewhere, safe and sound and fast asleep !

However, this terrible fall came to an end at last, and down came Alice on a heap of sticks and dry leaves. But she wasn't a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment. She looked up, but it was all dark overhead. Before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost. Away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting !" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.

HOW
ALICE
GREW
TALL



After Alice had tumbled down the rabbit-hole and had run a long, long way underground, all of a sudden she found herself in a great hall with doors all round it.

But all the doors were locked, so, you see, poor Alice couldn't get out of the hall, and that made her very sad.

However, after a while, she came to a little glass table with three legs. (There are two of the legs in the picture, and just the beginning of the other leg. Do you see?) And on the table was a little key, so Alice went round the hall, and tried if she could unlock any of the doors with it.

Poor Alice! The key wouldn't unlock any of the doors. But at last she came upon a tiny little door and oh, how glad she was when she found the key would fit it!

So she unlocked the tiny little door and she stooped down and looked through it, and what do you think she saw? Oh, such a beautiful garden! And she did so long to go into it! But the door was far too

small. She couldn't squeeze herself through, any more than you could squeeze yourself into a mouse-hole !

So poor little Alice locked up the door, and took the key back to the table again. This time she found quite a new thing on it, and what do you think it was ? It was a little bottle with a label tied to it with the words "DRINK ME" on the label. (Now look at the picture again.)

It was all very well to say "DRINK ME," but the wise Alice was not going to do that in a hurry. "No. I'll look first," she said, "and see if it's marked 'poison' or not." She had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked "poison," it is almost sure to make you very ill.

Now, this bottle was not marked "poison," so Alice tasted it, and it was very nice. It had a lovely mixed taste of cherry-tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee and hot buttered toast. So she set to work and drank it up. And then such a curious thing happened to her! You'll never guess what it was, so I shall have to tell you. She got smaller and smaller, until at last she was just the size of a little doll!

Then she said to herself, "Now I'm the right size to get through the little door!" And away she ran. But when she got there, the door was locked, and the key was on the top of the table and she couldn't reach it! Wasn't it a pity she had

locked up the door again? Well, the next thing she found was a little cake, and it had the words "EAT ME" marked on it. And what do you think the words "EAT ME" were written with? No, not pencil, nor ink, nor even chalk. They were written with currants! Now could you help eating a tiny cake that had the words "EAT ME" written on it in juicy currants? I'm quite sure you



couldn't, and neither could Alice. So of course she set to work and ate it up. And then what do you think happened to her? No, you'll never guess! I shall have to tell you again.

She grew and she grew and she grew. Taller than she was before! Taller than any child! Taller than any grown-up person! Taller and taller and taller. Just look at the picture and you'll see how tall she got!

Which would you have liked the best do you think, to be a tiny Alice no larger than a kitten, or a great tall Alice with your head always knocking against the ceiling?

THE POOL OF TEARS

Perhaps you think Alice must have been very much pleased when she had eaten the little cake, to find herself growing so tremendously tall? Because of course it would be easy enough now to reach the key off the glass table, and to open the little tiny door.

Well, of course she could do that, but what good was it to get the door open when she couldn't get through? She was worse off than ever, poor thing. She could just manage by putting her head down close to the ground, to look through with one eye! But that was all she could do. No wonder the poor tall child sat

down and cried as if her heart would break.

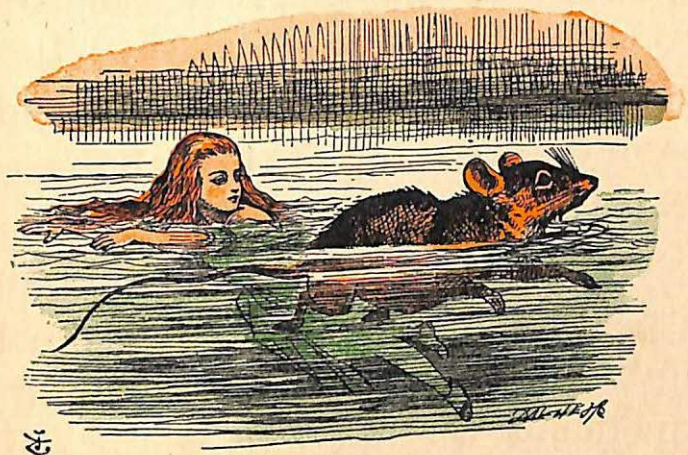
So she cried and she cried. And her tears ran down the middle of the hall like a deep river. And very soon there was quite a large Pool of Tears reaching half-way down the hall.

And there she might have stayed till this very day, if the White Rabbit hadn't happened to come through the hall on his way to visit the Duchess. He was dressed up as grand as grand could be. He had a pair of white kid gloves in one hand and a little fan in the other hand. And he kept on muttering to himself, "Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess. Oh, won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting!"

But he didn't see Alice, you know. So when she began to say, "If you please, sir——" her voice seemed to come from the top of the hall, because her head was so high up. And the Rabbit was dreadfully frightened. He dropped the gloves and the fan, and ran away as hard as he could go.

Then a very curious thing indeed happened. Alice took up the fan and began to fan herself with it, and lo and behold she got quite small again. Then, all in a minute, she was about the size of a mouse!

Now look at the picture and you'll soon guess what happened next. It looks just like the sea, doesn't it? But it really is the Pool of Tears all made of Alice's tears, you know!



And Alice has tumbled into the Pool, and the Mouse has tumbled in, and there they are swimming about together.

Doesn't Alice look pretty as she swims across the picture? You can just see her little shoes far away under the water.

But why is the Mouse swimming away from Alice in such a hurry?

Well, the reason is that Alice began talking about cats and dogs, and a Mouse always hates talking about cats and dogs !

Suppose you were swimming about in a pool of your own tears, and suppose somebody began talking to you about lesson-books and bottles of medicine, wouldn't you swim away as hard as you could go ?

At any rate, the Mouse swam away from Alice so quickly that it made big waves on the water and poor little Alice bobbed up and down like a cork ! She began to feel quite seasick ! So she called it back softly and promised not to talk about cats or dogs and together they swam to the shore.

THE CAUCUS-RACE

When Alice and the Mouse had got out of the Pool of Tears, of course they were very wet, and so were a lot of other curious creatures that had tumbled in as well. There was a Dodo. (That's the great bird in front leaning on a walking-stick.) And a Duck, and a Lory. (That's just behind the Duck, looking over its head.) And an Eaglet. (That's on the left-hand side of the Lory.) And several others.

Well, they didn't know how in the world they were to get dry again. But the Dodo, who was a very wise bird, told them the right way was to have a Caucus-Race. And what do you think that was?

You don't know? Well, be very attentive, and I will tell you.

First, you must have a race-course. It ought to be a sort of circle, but it doesn't much matter what shape it is, so long as it goes a good way round and joins on to itself again.

Then, you must put all the racers on the course, here and there. It doesn't matter where, so long as you don't crowd them too much together.

Then, you needn't say "One, two, three, and away!" but let them all set off running just when they like and leave off just when they like.

So all these creatures, Alice and all, went on running round and round until they were quite dry again. Then the Dodo suddenly called out,

“The race is over!” and they all crowded round it panting, and asking, “But who has won?”

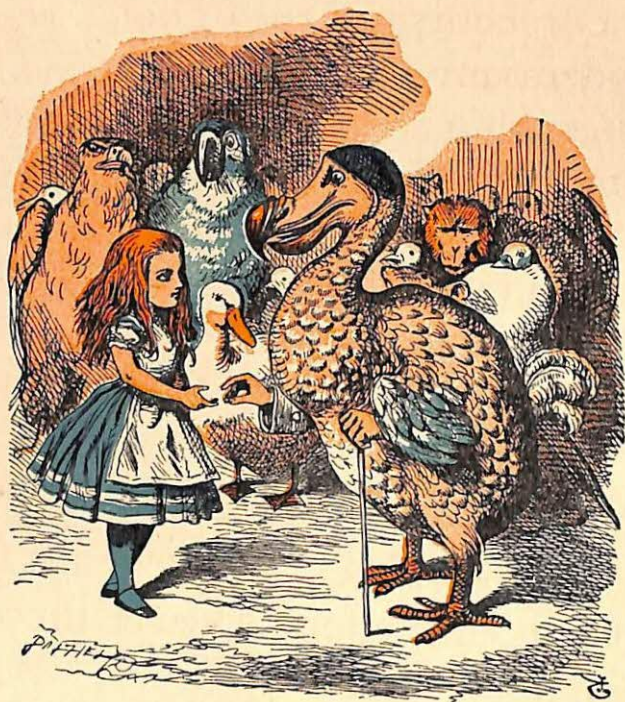
The Dodo had to think hard, and it sat for a long time with one finger pressed upon its forehead. At last it said, “Everybody has won, and all must have prizes!”

“But who is to give the prizes?” asked all the others.

“Why, she, of course,” said the Dodo, pointing to Alice with one finger.

And the whole party at once crowded round her calling out, “Prizes! Prizes!”

Alice had no idea what to do, and in despair she put her hand in her pocket and pulled out a box of



sweets (luckily the salt water had not got into it), and handed them round as prizes. There was just one a-piece all round.

“But she must have a prize herself, you know,” said the Mouse.

“Of course,” the Dodo replied very gravely. “What else have you got in your pocket?” he went on, turning to Alice.

“Only a thimble,” said Alice sadly.

“Hand it over here,” said the Dodo.

Then they all crowded round her once more, while the Dodo handed the thimble back to Alice, saying, “We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble.” And when it had finished this short speech they all cheered.

Wasn't that a curious sort of present to give her? Suppose they wanted to give you a birthday present, would you rather they should go to your toy-cupboard and pick out your nicest doll and say, “Here, my love,

here's a lovely birthday present for you!" or would you like them to give you something new, something that didn't belong to you before?

I can tell you, Alice thought it very silly, but they all looked so solemn that she did not dare laugh at them. She put the thimble on her finger to show how well it fitted (and it would have been strange if it hadn't fitted well, wouldn't it?) and then she bowed gravely.

Then they all began to eat their sweets—which was not so easy as it sounds. The little ones choked and the big ones said they could not taste theirs. But at last it was all over and one by one they went home, leaving Alice all alone.

BILL, THE LIZARD

Now I'm going to tell you about Alice's adventures in the White Rabbit's house.

Do you remember how the Rabbit dropped his gloves and his fan, when he was so frightened at hearing Alice's voice that seemed to come down from the sky? Well, of course, he couldn't go to visit the Duchess without his fan, so after a bit he came back again to look for them.

By this time the Dodo and all the other curious creatures had gone away, and Alice was wandering about all alone.

So what do you think he did? Actually he thought she was his

housemaid, and began ordering her about! "Mary Ann!" he said, "Go home this very minute and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick now!"

Perhaps he couldn't see very clearly with his pink eyes, for I'm sure Alice doesn't look very like a housemaid, does she? However, she was a very good-natured little girl, so she wasn't a bit offended, but ran off to the Rabbit's house as quickly as she could.

It was lucky she found the door open, for if she had had to ring, I suppose the real Mary Ann would have come to open the door, and she would never have let Alice come in. And I'm sure it was very lucky she

didn't meet the real Mary Ann as she trotted upstairs, for I'm afraid she would have taken Alice for a robber!

So at last she found her way into the Rabbit's room, and there was a pair of gloves lying on the table, and she was just going to take them up and go away, when she happened to see a little bottle on the table. And of course it had the words "DRINK ME" on the label. And of course Alice drank some!

Well, I think that was rather lucky, too, don't you? For if she hadn't drunk any, all this wonderful adventure that I'm going to tell you about wouldn't have happened at all. And wouldn't that have been a pity?

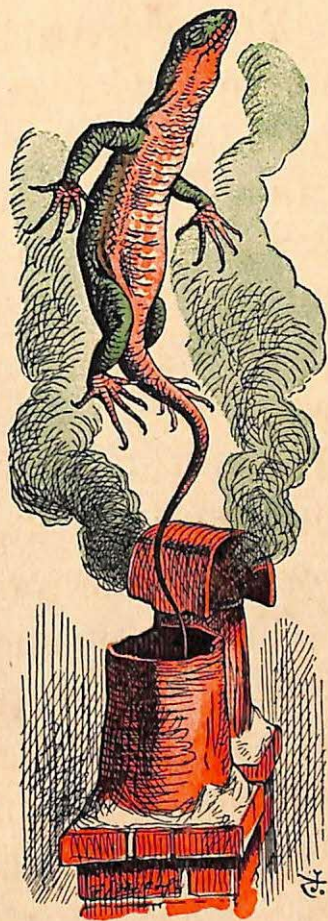
You're getting so used to Alice's adventures that I daresay you can guess what happened next. If you can't, I'll tell you.

She grew and she grew and she grew. And in a very short time the room was full of Alice, just in the same way as a jar is full of jam! There was Alice all the way up to the ceiling, and Alice in every corner of the room!

The door opened inwards, so of course there wasn't any room to open it. So when the Rabbit got tired of waiting, and came to fetch his gloves for himself, of course he couldn't get in.

"I'll go round and get in at the window," said the Rabbit to himself.

“That you won’t,” thought Alice, and after waiting till she heard the Rabbit just under the window, she suddenly spread out her hand and made a snatch in the air. She did not get hold of anything, but she heard a little shriek and a fall and a crash of broken glass. The Rabbit had fallen into the cucumber-frame.

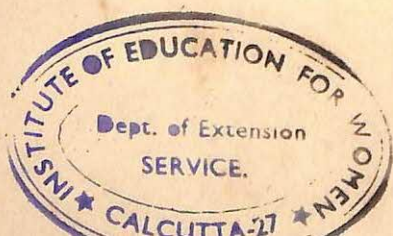


So what do you think the Rabbit did then? (Now we come to the

picture.) He sent Bill, the Lizard, up to the roof of the house and told him to get down the chimney. But Alice happened to have one of her feet in the fire-place, so when she heard Bill coming down the chimney she just gave a tiny kick, and away went Bill flying up into the sky!

Poor little Bill! Don't you pity him very much? How frightened he must have been!

When he landed on earth again (and just imagine how hard it must have been!) the kind White Rabbit gave him a drink of water, so I expect that Bill soon felt quite all right again. At any rate, I do hope so, don't you?



EXERCISES

1. Why was the White Rabbit afraid of being late?
2. What did Alice see through the tiny door?
3. Tell what happened to Alice when she ate the little cake.
4. Tell what happened when Alice met the White Rabbit again.
5. What is a Caucus-Race?
6. What happened to Alice when she was in the White Rabbit's room?

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- 1B. JENNY AND THE OLD HORSE
and ANOTHER OLD HORSE.
- 2B. JENNY IN THE BULL'S FIELD
and JENNY IN THE BLACKBERRY PIT.
- 3B. JENNY AND THE SWALLOWS.
- 4B. ALICE AND THE WHITE RABBIT
and OTHER STORIES.
- 5B. ALICE AND THE DEAR LITTLE PUPPY
and OTHER STORIES.
- 6B. ALICE AND THE MAD TEA-PARTY
and OTHER STORIES.
- 7B. THE OAK TREE and PADDY AMONG THE TULIPS.
- 8B. THE MAGIC WALKING-STICK
and THE THREE LITTLE PIGS.
- 9B. WILLIAM THE KITTEN
and BROOM BUSH SCHOOL.
- 10B. IN THE ATTIC and LITTLE JUMPING JOAN.
- 11B. THE GOLDEN SLIPPERS
and FOUR AND TWENTY TAILORS.
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and THE RABBITS' CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- 13B. JACOB'S BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST
and THE MILKMAID.
- 14B. WHO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG?
and HOW THE WOOD-PIGEON BUILT HER NEST.
- 15B. THE SILVER FISH and THE STOWAWAY.
- 16B. THE SURPRISING SEED.

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ALICE
AND THE
WHITE
RABBIT



Once upon a time there was a little girl called Alice, and she had a very curious dream.

Would you like to hear what it was that she dreamed about?

Well, this was the first thing that happened. A White Rabbit came running by in a great hurry, and

just as it passed Alice it stopped and took its watch out of its pocket.

Wasn't that a funny thing? Did you ever see a Rabbit that had a watch and a pocket to put it in? Of course, when a Rabbit has a watch, it must have a pocket to put it in. It would never do to carry it about in its mouth, and it wants its hands sometimes to run about with.

Hasn't it got pretty pink eyes? (I think all white Rabbits have pink eyes.) It has pink ears, too, and a nice brown coat. You can just see its silk pocket-handkerchief peeping out of its coat pocket, and with its blue neck-tie and its yellow waistcoat, it really is very nicely dressed.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" said the

Rabbit. "I shall be too late!"

What would it be too late for, I wonder? Well, you see, it had to go to visit the Duchess. Now, the Duchess was a very cross old lady, and the Rabbit knew she'd be very angry indeed if he kept her waiting. So the poor thing was as frightened as frightened could be. Just shake the book a little from side to side, and you'll soon see him tremble. The Rabbit thought the Duchess would have his head cut off for a punishment for being late. That was what the Queen of Hearts used to do when she was angry with people. At least the Queen used to order their heads to be cut off, and she always thought it was done, though

they never really did it, you know.

And so, when the White Rabbit ran away, Alice wanted to see what would happen to it. So she ran after it, and she ran and she ran till she tumbled right down the rabbit-hole.

And then she had a very long fall indeed. Down and down and down she fell, till she began to wonder if she was going right through the world, so as to come out on the other side !

It was just like a very deep well, only there was no water in it. If anybody really had such a fall as that, it would kill them, most likely. But you know it doesn't hurt a bit to fall in a dream, because, all the time you think you're falling, you really

are lying somewhere, safe and sound and fast asleep !

However, this terrible fall came to an end at last, and down came Alice on a heap of sticks and dry leaves. But she wasn't a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment. She looked up, but it was all dark overhead. Before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost. Away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting !" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.

HOW
ALICE
GREW
TALL



After Alice had tumbled down the rabbit-hole and had run a long, long way underground, all of a sudden she found herself in a great hall with doors all round it.

But all the doors were locked, so, you see, poor Alice couldn't get out of the hall, and that made her very sad.

However, after a while, she came to a little glass table with three legs. (There are two of the legs in the picture, and just the beginning of the other leg. Do you see?) And on the table was a little key, so Alice went round the hall, and tried if she could unlock any of the doors with it.

Poor Alice! The key wouldn't unlock any of the doors. But at last she came upon a tiny little door and oh, how glad she was when she found the key would fit it!

So she unlocked the tiny little door and she stooped down and looked through it, and what do you think she saw? Oh, such a beautiful garden! And she did so long to go into it! But the door was far too

small. She couldn't squeeze herself through, any more than you could squeeze yourself into a mouse-hole !

So poor little Alice locked up the door, and took the key back to the table again. This time she found quite a new thing on it, and what do you think it was ? It was a little bottle with a label tied to it with the words "DRINK ME" on the label. (Now look at the picture again.)

It was all very well to say "DRINK ME," but the wise Alice was not going to do that in a hurry. "No. I'll look first," she said, "and see if it's marked 'poison' or not." She had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked "poison," it is almost sure to make you very ill.

Now, this bottle was not marked "poison," so Alice tasted it, and it was very nice. It had a lovely mixed taste of cherry-tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee and hot buttered toast. So she set to work and drank it up. And then such a curious thing happened to her! You'll never guess what it was, so I shall have to tell you. She got smaller and smaller, until at last she was just the size of a little doll!

Then she said to herself, "Now I'm the right size to get through the little door!" And away she ran. But when she got there, the door was locked, and the key was on the top of the table and she couldn't reach it! Wasn't it a pity she had

locked up the door again? Well, the next thing she found was a little cake, and it had the words "EAT ME" marked on it. And what do you think the words "EAT ME" were written with? No, not pencil, nor ink, nor even chalk. They were written with currants! Now could you help eating a tiny cake that had the words "EAT ME" written on it in juicy currants? I'm quite sure you



couldn't, and neither could Alice. So of course she set to work and ate it up. And then what do you think happened to her? No, you'll never guess! I shall have to tell you again.

She grew and she grew and she grew. Taller than she was before! Taller than any child! Taller than any grown-up person! Taller and taller and taller. Just look at the picture and you'll see how tall she got!

Which would you have liked the best do you think, to be a tiny Alice no larger than a kitten, or a great tall Alice with your head always knocking against the ceiling?

THE POOL OF TEARS

Perhaps you think Alice must have been very much pleased when she had eaten the little cake, to find herself growing so tremendously tall? Because of course it would be easy enough now to reach the key off the glass table, and to open the little tiny door.

Well, of course she could do that, but what good was it to get the door open when she couldn't get through? She was worse off than ever, poor thing. She could just manage by putting her head down close to the ground, to look through with one eye! But that was all she could do. No wonder the poor tall child sat

down and cried as if her heart would break.

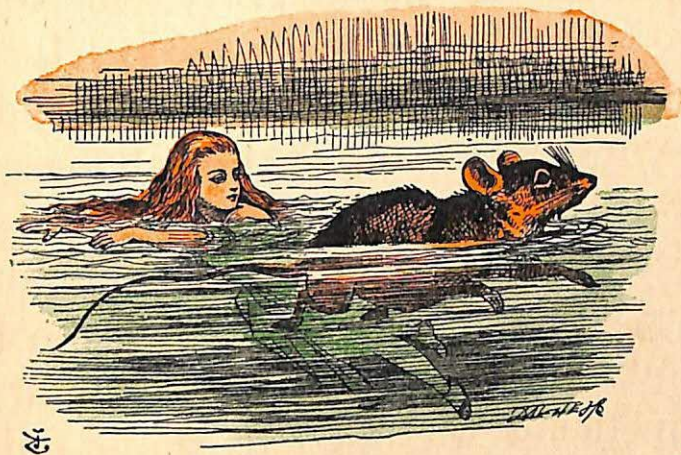
So she cried and she cried. And her tears ran down the middle of the hall like a deep river. And very soon there was quite a large Pool of Tears reaching half-way down the hall.

And there she might have stayed till this very day, if the White Rabbit hadn't happened to come through the hall on his way to visit the Duchess. He was dressed up as grand as grand could be. He had a pair of white kid gloves in one hand and a little fan in the other hand. And he kept on muttering to himself, "Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess. Oh, won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting!"

But he didn't see Alice, you know. So when she began to say, "If you please, sir——" her voice seemed to come from the top of the hall, because her head was so high up. And the Rabbit was dreadfully frightened. He dropped the gloves and the fan, and ran away as hard as he could go.

Then a very curious thing indeed happened. Alice took up the fan and began to fan herself with it, and lo and behold she got quite small again. Then, all in a minute, she was about the size of a mouse!

Now look at the picture and you'll soon guess what happened next. It looks just like the sea, doesn't it? But it really is the Pool of Tears all made of Alice's tears, you know!



And Alice has tumbled into the Pool, and the Mouse has tumbled in, and there they are swimming about together.

Doesn't Alice look pretty as she swims across the picture? You can just see her little shoes far away under the water.

But why is the Mouse swimming away from Alice in such a hurry?

Well, the reason is that Alice began talking about cats and dogs, and a Mouse always hates talking about cats and dogs!

Suppose you were swimming about in a pool of your own tears, and suppose somebody began talking to you about lesson-books and bottles of medicine, wouldn't you swim away as hard as you could go?

At any rate, the Mouse swam away from Alice so quickly that it made big waves on the water and poor little Alice bobbed up and down like a cork! She began to feel quite seasick! So she called it back softly and promised not to talk about cats or dogs and together they swam to the shore.

THE CAUCUS-RACE

When Alice and the Mouse had got out of the Pool of Tears, of course they were very wet, and so were a lot of other curious creatures that had tumbled in as well. There was a Dodo. (That's the great bird in front leaning on a walking-stick.) And a Duck, and a Lory. (That's just behind the Duck, looking over its head.) And an Eaglet. (That's on the left-hand side of the Lory.) And several others.

Well, they didn't know how in the world they were to get dry again. But the Dodo, who was a very wise bird, told them the right way was to have a Caucus-Race. And what do you think that was?

You don't know? Well, be very attentive, and I will tell you.

First, you must have a race-course. It ought to be a sort of circle, but it doesn't much matter what shape it is, so long as it goes a good way round and joins on to itself again.

Then, you must put all the racers on the course, here and there. It doesn't matter where, so long as you don't crowd them too much together.

Then, you needn't say "One, two, three, and away!" but let them all set off running just when they like and leave off just when they like.

So all these creatures, Alice and all, went on running round and round until they were quite dry again. Then the Dodo suddenly called out,

“The race is over!” and they all crowded round it panting, and asking, “But who has won?”

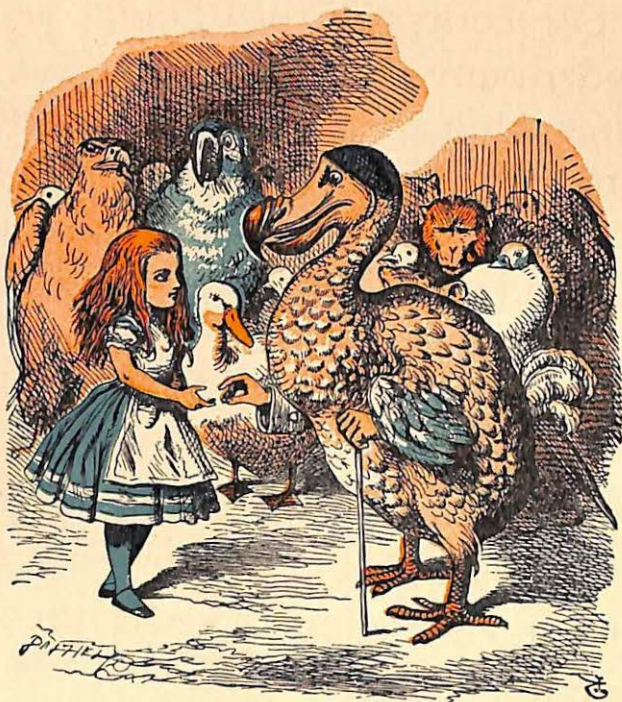
The Dodo had to think hard, and it sat for a long time with one finger pressed upon its forehead. At last it said, “Everybody has won, and all must have prizes!”

“But who is to give the prizes?” asked all the others.

“Why, she, of course,” said the Dodo, pointing to Alice with one finger.

And the whole party at once crowded round her calling out, “Prizes! Prizes!”

Alice had no idea what to do, and in despair she put her hand in her pocket and pulled out a box of



sweets (luckily the salt water had not got into it), and handed them round as prizes. There was just one a-piece all round.

“But she must have a prize herself, you know,” said the Mouse.

“Of course,” the Dodo replied very gravely. “What else have you got in your pocket?” he went on, turning to Alice.

“Only a thimble,” said Alice sadly.

“Hand it over here,” said the Dodo.

Then they all crowded round her once more, while the Dodo handed the thimble back to Alice, saying, “We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble.” And when it had finished this short speech they all cheered.

Wasn't that a curious sort of present to give her? Suppose they wanted to give you a birthday present, would you rather they should go to your toy-cupboard and pick out your nicest doll and say, “Here, my love,

here's a lovely birthday present for you!" or would you like them to give you something new, something that didn't belong to you before?

I can tell you, Alice thought it very silly, but they all looked so solemn that she did not dare laugh at them. She put the thimble on her finger to show how well it fitted (and it would have been strange if it hadn't fitted well, wouldn't it?) and then she bowed gravely.

Then they all began to eat their sweets—which was not so easy as it sounds. The little ones choked and the big ones said they could not taste theirs. But at last it was all over and one by one they went home, leaving Alice all alone.

BILL, THE LIZARD

Now I'm going to tell you about Alice's adventures in the White Rabbit's house.

Do you remember how the Rabbit dropped his gloves and his fan, when he was so frightened at hearing Alice's voice that seemed to come down from the sky? Well, of course, he couldn't go to visit the Duchess without his fan, so after a bit he came back again to look for them.

By this time the Dodo and all the other curious creatures had gone away, and Alice was wandering about all alone.

So what do you think he did? Actually he thought she was his

housemaid, and began ordering her about! "Mary Ann!" he said, "Go home this very minute and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick now!"

Perhaps he couldn't see very clearly with his pink eyes, for I'm sure Alice doesn't look very like a housemaid, does she? However, she was a very good-natured little girl, so she wasn't a bit offended, but ran off to the Rabbit's house as quickly as she could.

It was lucky she found the door open, for if she had had to ring, I suppose the real Mary Ann would have come to open the door, and she would never have let Alice come in. And I'm sure it was very lucky she

didn't meet the real Mary Ann as she trotted upstairs, for I'm afraid she would have taken Alice for a robber !

So at last she found her way into the Rabbit's room, and there was a pair of gloves lying on the table, and she was just going to take them up and go away, when she happened to see a little bottle on the table. And of course it had the words "DRINK ME" on the label. And of course Alice drank some !

Well, I think that was rather lucky, too, don't you ? For if she hadn't drunk any, all this wonderful adventure that I'm going to tell you about wouldn't have happened at all. And wouldn't that have been a pity ?

You're getting so used to Alice's adventures that I daresay you can guess what happened next. If you can't, I'll tell you.

She grew and she grew and she grew. And in a very short time the room was full of Alice, just in the same way as a jar is full of jam! There was Alice all the way up to the ceiling, and Alice in every corner of the room!

The door opened inwards, so of course there wasn't any room to open it. So when the Rabbit got tired of waiting, and came to fetch his gloves for himself, of course he couldn't get in.

"I'll go round and get in at the window," said the Rabbit to himself.

“That you won’t,” thought Alice, and after waiting till she heard the Rabbit just under the window, she suddenly spread out her hand and made a snatch in the air. She did not get hold of anything, but she heard a little shriek and a fall and a crash of broken glass. The Rabbit had fallen into the cucumber-frame.

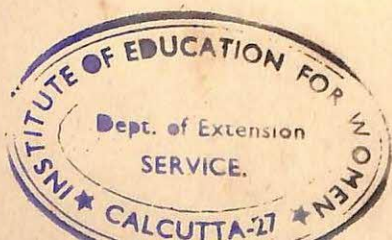


So what do you think the Rabbit did then? (Now we come to the

picture.) He sent Bill, the Lizard, up to the roof of the house and told him to get down the chimney. But Alice happened to have one of her feet in the fire-place, so when she heard Bill coming down the chimney she just gave a tiny kick, and away went Bill flying up into the sky!

Poor little Bill! Don't you pity him very much? How frightened he must have been!

When he landed on earth again (and just imagine how hard it must have been!) the kind White Rabbit gave him a drink of water, so I expect that Bill soon felt quite all right again. At any rate, I do hope so, don't you?



EXERCISES

1. Why was the White Rabbit afraid of being late?
2. What did Alice see through the tiny door?
3. Tell what happened to Alice when she ate the little cake.
4. Tell what happened when Alice met the White Rabbit again.
5. What is a Caucus-Race?
6. What happened to Alice when she was in the White Rabbit's room?

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- 1B. JENNY AND THE OLD HORSE
and ANOTHER OLD HORSE.
- 2B. JENNY IN THE BULL'S FIELD
and JENNY IN THE BLACKBERRY PIT.
- 3B. JENNY AND THE SWALLOWS.
- 4B. ALICE AND THE WHITE RABBIT
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- 5B. ALICE AND THE DEAR LITTLE PUPPY
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- 6B. ALICE AND THE MAD TEA-PARTY
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